

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub B
1. A process for preparing detergent agglomerates ^{comprising} characterized by the steps of:
- (a) providing a non-linear viscoelastic surfactant paste including, by weight of said surfactant paste, from 70% to 95% of a deterative surfactant, from 5% to 30% of water, and an excess amount of an alkali metal hydroxide such that the pH of said surfactant paste is at least 10;
 - (b) regulating the temperature of said surfactant paste within a range from 50°C to 80°C so that said surfactant paste is processable and stable for at least 48 hours;
 - (c) charging said surfactant paste into a high speed mixer/densifier;
 - (d) inputting from 1% to 70% by weight of a detergency builder into said high speed mixer/densifier; and
 - (e) agglomerating said surfactant paste and said builder by treating said surfactant paste and said builder initially in said high speed mixer/densifier and subsequently in a moderate speed mixer/densifier so as to form said detergent agglomerates.
2. The process according to claim 1 wherein said surfactant paste is substantially free of materials which produces a gas when reacted with an acid.
3. The process according to ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-2~~ wherein said alkali metal hydroxide in said surfactant paste is sodium hydroxide.
4. The process according to ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-3~~ wherein said deterative surfactant is a mixture of alkyl sulfate and linear alkylbenzene sulfonate surfactants in a weight ratio of from 1:1 to 5:1.
5. The process according to ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-4~~ further ^{comprising} characterized by the step of drying said detergent agglomerates.
6. The process according to ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-5~~ wherein said detergency builder is aluminosilicate.
7. The process according to ^{claim 1} ~~claims 1-6~~ wherein said regulating step renders said surfactant paste stable for at least 72 hours.

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- claim 1*
A 8. The process according to ~~claims 1-7~~^{*claim 1*} wherein said regulating step includes the step of maintaining said surfactant paste stable for at least 170 hours.
- claim 1*
A 9. The process according to ~~claims 1-8~~^{*claim 1*} wherein said regulating step includes the step of maintaining said surfactant paste within a temperature of from 60°C to 75°C.
- claim 1* *comprising*
A 10. The process according to ~~claims 1-9~~^{*claim 1*} further ~~characterized by~~^{*comprising*} the step of maintaining said surfactant paste substantially free of contaminant materials having a pH of less than 7.

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